The Big Picture

New technologies have the potential to change the world for the better. But technology alone is not enough. Pascal broadens the perspective and takes a look at the big picture: he explains why we should see exponential technologies as tools to solve the some of the world's greatest problems.

Learning contents

- **Using technology for the really important things**
- **Activity instead of passivity**
- **Prepare yourself**

Alright, after all this we have to talk about the big picture.

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Technology for the sake of technology is interesting,

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and trust me, I can talk about this all day long with you.

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But it's really not that meaningful.

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Albert Einstein wrote a quote, which I read 25 years ago, which said:

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"We shall require a substantially new manner of thinking if mankind is to survive."

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When I first read this I literally couldn't sleep for a week,

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and of course he means this in the area of nuclear proliferation,

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but I believe this is true today and probably even more so.

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When you think about the big problems we are having in the world,

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and make no mistake, over all our planet is getting into a better shape,

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you know, every single day.

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There is more people living in non-poverty situations,

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your life expectancy goes up, all this good stuff,

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but we still have some really big problems to solve.

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So take for example global warming.

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Experts kind of agree that it's a really big deal,

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and they say that the sea levels will rise by two meters by the end of this century.

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Which means that, you know, costal towns will be just gone.

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We will see mass displacement of people if we are not doing something about this,

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and, quite frankly, it doesn't really look like we're doing something about it.

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The United Nations say that the worlds population

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by 2050 will grow to nine billion people.

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To feed these people we need to grow our agricultural output by two percent annually.

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We're currently growing by one percent.

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We will not have enough food for these people.

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You take poverty: There's two and a half billion people

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that live on less than two and a half dollars a day.

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Hygiene: There's more than 800.000 million people

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who don't have proper access to drinking water,

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Or two and a half billion people don't have access to proper hygiene situations.

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You take literacy: 750.000 million people

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who don't have access to reading or writing, who can't read or write.

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Or you take malnutrition:

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There is a child which dies every eight seconds because of malnutrition in this world.

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In those same eight seconds McDonalds sells you 600 hamburgers.

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And we are living in a world where, in the western world, obesity is the number one killer.

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I believe we need to think and act big.

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We have the power to change the world as we wish.

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Technology allows us to do so.

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And, you know, Steve Jobs famously said that the world,

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the world around you was build by people who were no smarter than you are, and thats true!

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What we need to do is: we need to think and act big.

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We need to pick goals which are worthy doing.

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And also understand that you need to take an active role in this world,

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because otherwise this world will happen to you.

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You can change this world.

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You, personally, can change this world but you have to be active,

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you have to do something about it,

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you have to pick the biggest challenges you can find, because...

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You know, quite frankly growth is picking the hardest challenges you can find,

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and attacking them as hard as you possibly can,

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because, you know, it's how you grow as an individual.

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We have to be some crazy people sometimes.

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You know, George Bernard Shaw, the Irish playwright, said:

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'The reasonable man adapts himself to the world.

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The unreasonable one persists in trying to adapt the world to himself.

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Therefore, all progress depends on the unreasonable man and woman.'

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We are moving into this really interesting world were the lines are crossing.

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You know, the world will look so different tomorrow than it does today.

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But the beauty is, I really believe this: the future is unwritten.

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The future isn't here yet, it is on us to create the future we want.

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It is in you to create the future you want,

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and the one thing I know is that you have take an active stance in this future,

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because otherwise we will just be a passiv participants,

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and that is a really bad place to be.